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A LION'S SPRING

(Copyright, 1905, by R. B. McChesney)
We were washing for gold among the streams of the Wind River mountains and it was midsummer. The Indians were hostile and had given us several close calls until we had penetrated the fastnesses and got beyond their ranging ground.

We had on this morning moved our camp about three miles down the creek and I was not feeling at all well. While my partner Joe went back after a second load I looked for a spot in which to rest for an hour. Ten rods to the west of the creek there was a rocky bluff and ten feet up I saw the mouth of a cave. It was a distressingly hot day, although deep among the mountains, and I sought the cave for its cool shelter. It was a place not over eight feet long by three deep, a crevice among the jagged blocks of lime stone, and it was just the spot in which to rest. I had been working in the cold water, with the hot sun beating down on my head, and I was feverish and hot by turns. I was, in fact, a little light headed and realized that I was. I sat leaning against the back of the cave and almost went to sleep. I was drowsing when I heard a slight noise above me and was wide awake at once. From the lay of the ground I knew that only a wild animal of some sort could have gained the rocks above.

For five minutes I sat without movement, able only to see directly in front of me. Then a shadow appeared on the earth below me. The sun was at my back and at the back of whatever thing was up there, and its shadow crept into view inch by inch. In time I made out the ears and head of a mountain lion. There was no mistaking it for the head of any other animal. From a fair height up among the rocks the animal had got my scent on the morning breeze and had come down to stalk me. Down on the other side of the brawling creek was my rifle, and I had even left my hunting knife among the camp equipment. If the lion was minded to leap down on the shelf at the front of the cave, I should be helpless.

I had studied the beast from a hunter's point of view and therefore had no trouble in reading what happened during the next half hour. In the first place, if he had got my scent he had also got that of some one else. It was not the scent of another beast, but of a man. I could tell that by the nervous movements of the beast I could not see. He did not growl, as he would if watching bear or wolf or one of his own species, but now and then he whined and seemed a bit afraid.

When Joe returned he would not pass the cave, but halt 200 feet away. He had his rifle and revolver with him. Missing me, he would call out. The lion would not attempt to attack an armed man by daylight and at that distance. It seemed to me that the beast must be watching some one nearer by. I had not given the lay of the ground much attention, but was under the impression that a shallow ravine led from the cave in a northerly direction, parallel with the stream. This would furnish cover for any one creeping up to view the site of our new camp and lie in ambush for us. I finally settled it in my mind that some Indian hunter or some young brave anxious to make a record had in some way struck our trail and was planning to get our scalps. He was creeping up the ravine, and the lion was watching him.

I could trace the progress of the man by the actions of the animal above. Sometimes the shadow included the neck and shoulders of the lion, and sometimes it retreated altogether. Sometimes there was deepest silence for a moment and then it was broken by a whine or the clicking of claws. What I began to fear as the minutes glided away was that Joe would return and be shot by the lurking savage before the lion could interfere. That he meant to spring when his prey came near enough I had no doubt. It was just the sort of situation to appeal to a lion—the cat and the mouse.

By watching the shadow and listening to the movements of the beast I was enabled to gauge the movements of the enemy in the ravine. How near at hand he was when the lion first caught sight of him I could only guess afterward as I looked over the ground, but I made it about 200 feet. He had the cover of the boulders and bushes for all that distance, but he moved with the greatest caution. The nearer he approached camp the greater his caution.

At fifty feet away he halted for full ten minutes. During this interval he must have been surveying our camp outfit and wondering why no one was in sight. With the suspicion of his race he probably scented some ambush on our part. I knew when he came moving along again—when he was within thirty feet—twenty—ten. I had now lost all fear that I was to become a victim and was deeply interested in watching for the climax. The lion was fifteen feet above the man and would have to spring outward about ten feet. This would be an easy effort for him.

As the Indian came nearer the lion ceased to whine or click his claws, but I could almost feel the quiver of his muscles as he made ready. I was watching and listening with all my might, and I surely thought I should be able to detect his last movement before taking the leap, but all I saw was a black ball pass before my vision, and then the stillness was rent by a wild scream of surprise and terror. There was a snarl and a growl, sounds of a struggle, and then all was silent.

M. QUAD.

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A COSTLY LESSON.

Lack of Fire Engines Causes Heavy Loss in Ohio Towns.

An Ohio town had a lesson recently which it will not forget in a hurry. During a fire that started in the business section it developed that there was no organized fire department in the town and no fire engines. The only apparatus was a quantity of worn-out and useless fire hose. The inhabitants were unable to quell the conflagration, and it was finally extinguished by a heavy rain after burning several hours and destroying much property.

This is a lesson which every community should heed. The best fire apparatus is expensive, but it will prove cheap in the long run. Fire organizations are likely to deteriorate through lack of interest in their work by the citizens. Salaried fire departments are luxuries which only the larger cities can afford to indulge in, so most of the work of guarding property and life from the ravages of fire devolves on volunteer fire organizations, and as a rule they have performed that duty well.

To these organizations every citizen should give hearty support and co-operation. Modern and ample apparatus should be furnished, suitable quarters provided and moral and financial aid extended whenever needed.

Many towns take great pride in their fire companies, and the best young men in the community feel it an honor to be a member of a crack fire organization. Where these conditions prevail all is well. But there are other towns, alas, where antiquated engines and old fashioned and obsolete equipment are lying in some outhouse, neglected and forgotten, and when the time comes when it shall be needed, and badly needed at that, it will be found utterly unfit for its intended purpose. Then will come regrets, but they won't restore the property destroyed.

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At Lawrenceburg, Ky., last week, the jury sentenced Wm. H. York to life imprisonment for the murder of his brother, James R. York. Both were very old men. The murder was peculiarly wicked and atrocious, James York being shot dead as he lay asleep in his bed. After his sentence York still persisted that he was innocent.

Forced to Starve.

B. F. Leek, of Concord, Ky., says: "For 20 years I suffered agonies, with a sore on my upper lip, so painful, sometimes, that I could not eat. After vainly trying everything else, I cured it with Bucklen's Arnica Salve." It's great for burns, cuts and wounds. At Woods & Orme's drug store; Only 25c.

Commissioner's Sale.

CRITTENDEN CIRCUIT COURT, KY.
J. A. Graves et al, plff. against W. T. Graves et al, dft., Equity.

By virtue of a judgment and order of sale of the Crittenden Circuit Court rendered at the Nov. term thereof, 1905, in the above cause, I shall proceed to offer for sale at the courthouse door in Marion to the highest bidder, at Public Auction, on Monday the 12th day of Feb. 1906, at 1 o'clock p. m. or thereabout, (being court day), upon a credit of six months the following described property, to-wit: The following described property situated in Crittenden Co., Ky. in and near Dyersburg, Ky. as follows:

First tract known as the homestead of W. S. Graves and his wife, Helen A. Graves, and bounded as follows: Beginning on the n. w. corner of Mrs. Dwyer Hill thence n 11 e 8 poles; thence n 46 e 20 poles and 20 links; thence n 85 e 20 poles to a large post oak stump corner to Isaac F. Martin, thence s 46 e 26 poles to another corner of said Martin, thence s 28 poles to Jacobs line, thence s 88 e 32 poles to the s. e. corner of Mrs. Dwyer Hill thence with her line n 11 e 225 feet to her corner; thence with her line s 88 w to the beginning, said to contain 13 acres.

The second tract was conveyed to W. S. Graves the decedent, by John W. Fox and his wife, on the 21st day of January, and described in three parcels, the first parcel being lot No. 11, and beginning at a small black white oak in the John Robertson old military line, and corner to lot number 9; thence with a line of same s 422 poles to four black oaks corner to S. H. Cassidy lot No. 10; thence with a line of same s 24 w 150 poles to a Spanish oak, corner to the Hester Crouch land, thence with a line of same n 81 w 134 poles to a large white oak corner to same; thence n 58 w 112 poles to the beginning, said to contain 239 acres.

The second parcel is bounded as follows: Beginning at a poplar and ash corner to Sarah Boaz, thence w 499 poles to a small black oak and white oak in John Robinson's old military line, thence with the same n 38 e 252 poles to two small black oaks and post corner to P. C. Campbell; thence with this line e 345 poles to a stone corner to S. A. & G. L. Boaz, thence with their line s 194 poles to the beginning, said to contain 512 acres.

Third parcel located on Cumberland river or paddy's bluff adjoining the survey of Jesse Burton and the Brasher heirs, being all that portion of land left out of the plot of the G. D. Cobb lands, and contains 50 acres more or less. For a more particular description, the deed of J. W. Fox and wife to W. S. Graves, dated January 21st, 1881, is filed herewith as exhibit "B" is referred to.

That out of the second parcel of land containing 512 acres which was conveyed by John W. Fox and wife to W. S. Graves, the said W. S. Graves on the 6th day of Feb. 1901, sold to Mrs. O. H. Scott a part of said land, described as follows: Beginning at W. C. Guess s. w. corner thence w 82 to the Dyersburg and Pineknayville public road; thence with the meanders of said road n 19 w 16 poles, n 5 w 23 poles, n 34 w 36 poles, n 52 w 17 poles, s 62 w 22 poles, n 36 w 58 poles, n 25 w 28 poles to a black oak in P. C. Campbell's line, of the G. D. Cobb land; thence e 144 poles with his line to W. C. Guess n. w. corner; thence with his line s 18 e 144 poles to the beginning, said to contain 135 acres more or less.

Also out of the same tract of land, containing 512 acres and so deeded by J. W. Fox and wife to said W. S. Graves, he said W. S. Graves did on the 31st day of Oct. 1889 convey to S. R. Holder the following described land adjoining a piece of land on the west side which he purchased of W. S. Graves in the year of 1898 and bounded as follows: Beginning on S. R. Holder's corner in the John Robinson line, thence with the said line s 36 w 90 poles to the Pineknayville and Dyersburg road, thence with the meanders of said road n 87 e 30 poles, thence s 86 e 31 poles, thence n 64 e 2 poles, n 24 e 14 poles, n 56 e 18 poles, n 4 e 16 poles, n 42 e 16 poles, n 11 e 7 poles to a stake another corner to Holder, thence with a line of said Holder, n 88 w 50 poles to the beginning, said to contain 25 acres more or less. Also the decedent W. S. Graves, out of the John W. Fox land of 512 acres aforesaid did on the 6th day of June 1893, convey to W. C. Guess the following described land; supposed to be 61 A. and bounded as follows: commencing in the G. L. Boaz field at a stone thence w 75 poles, thence s 135 poles e 73 poles, thence n 135 poles to the beginning.

Also another parcel of said land was on the first day of Jan. 1898 conveyed by W. S. Graves to W. C. Guess out of said Fox land of 512 A. the following boundary: Beginning on W. C. Guess s. w. corner, thence w 1 1/2 e 6 poles to a stone, thence n 18 w 144 poles to a stone in T. C. Campbell's line of the G. D. Cobb land

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Women's Corset Covers.

No. J-120.—Cambric Corset Cover, round yoke, trimmed with tulle and ribbon, edge; price, 50c.

No. J-128.—Cambric Corset Cover, for neck of foreign lace, round yoke and ribbon bow; skirt finished with tulle; price, 50c.

No. J-129.—Nainsook Corset Cover, yoke finished of Valenciennes lace and ribbon; insertion, heading with ribbon drawn through and lace edge; price, 50c.

Women's Long Walking Skirts.
No. J-140.—Muslin Under skirt, finished with lace, lace yoke and ribbon; with tulle lace and edge; price, 50c.

No. J-151.—Cambric Under skirt, finished with numerous rows of tulle, tulle lace insertion and ribbon; deep lace ruffle; price, 50c.
No. J-152.—Cambric Under skirt, deep lace blouse, trimmed with tulle and lace; deep lace ruffle; price, 50c.

Women's Short Underskirts.

No. J-147.—Short Cambric Under skirt, with tucked lace yoke, ribbon and embroidery edge; price, 50c.

No. J-148.—Short Under skirt of tulle, with tucked lace yoke; price, 50c.

Women's Drawers.
No. J-142.—Cambric Drawers, finished with tulle lace, ribbon and embroidery edge; price, 50c.

No. J-143.—Muslin Drawers, with tulle lace and ribbon lace yoke; price, 50c.

Women's Night Gowns.
No. J-111.—Nainsook gown, with embroidery insertion, embroidery and ribbon drawn through, finished with Valenciennes lace yoke, deep lace ruffle and featherstitching and ribbon lace yoke; price, 50c.

No. J-112.—Cambric Gown, yoke finished with tulle lace insertion and satin ribbon bow; sleeves finished with hemstitched lace ruffle; price, 50c.

No. J-114.—Muslin Gown, yoke finished with tulle lace, ribbon and embroidery edge; price, 50c.

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